

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and an Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97. Claims 29, 30, 32-46, 48-54, and 55-90 are pending in the Application and Claims 29, 30, 32-46, 48-54, 55, and 56 stand allowed. The mailing of a Notice of Allowance on May 11, 2005 is noted with appreciation. Claims 29, 32, 33, 36-45, 47, 49, 52, and 56 are amended, Claims 31, 47, and 55 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 57-90 are added by the present Amendment.

Allowed independent Claims 29, 45, and 49 have been amended to recite the subject matter of canceled Claims 31, 47, and 55, respectively. In addition, Claims 29, 32, 33, 36-45, 47, 49, 52, and 56 are amended to better conform to U.S. claim drafting practice without adding new matter. Thus, it is believed that Claims 29, 30, 32-46, 48-54, 55, and 56 remain allowable.

Finally, Applicants have submitted new Claims 57-90, for which non-limiting support is self-evident from the subject matter recited in the claims now allowed. Therefore, new Claims 57-90 are not believed to raise a question of new matter.¹ The new claims have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope. Applicants believe that the new claims patently distinguish from all the references made of record, thus the new claims should also be allowed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

¹ See MPEP 2163.06 stating that "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter."

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condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 29, 30, 32-46, 48-54, and 55-90 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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